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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:APINKNEY/NANDREWS:AFM
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O 091752Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 047998

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR IC NATO
SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: RUMORED
PROGRESSIVE PARTY-PEOPLES ALLIANCE
AGREEMENT ON GOI NEGOTIATING POSITION
REF: (A) REYKJAVIK 396; (B) REYKJAVIK 287

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES YOUR HOPE THAT RUMORED PP/PA AGREEMENT EITHER DOES NOT HAVE PRIME MINISTER'S APPROVAL IN VIEW OF HIS REPEATED ASSURANCES TO YOU, AND THEREFORE TO USG (PARA 5 REF A), AND/OR THAT OLL WILL OPPOSE IT.

2. WE FULLY AGREE THAT REPORTS REACHING YOU MUST BE TREATED SERIOUSLY. WE HAVE NOTED ICELANDIC REFERENCES TO ARTICLE IV IN THE PAST (REF B) BUT ASSUMED ANY USE THEREOF WOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. LEGAL OFFICES HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DOD ARE LOOKING INTO THE HISTORY AND MEANING OF ARTICLE IV AND THE RESULTS WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU.

3. IN ANY EVENT, USG WOULD FIND USE OF ARTICLE IV BY THE GOI TO TAKE THE STEPS DESCRIBED PARA 3 REF A AS
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BEING COMPLETELY COUNTER TO OUR PREVIOUS AND CONTINUING ATTEMPTS TO ARRIVE AT A FAIR AND EQUITABLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE BASE. WE WISH TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN

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THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE, AFTER ALL, CALLED FOR BY ICELANDIC INVOCATION OF ARTICLE VII. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE GOI TO USE ARTICLE IV TO RENDER THE BASE MEANINGLESS WOULD BE TOTALLY COUNTER TO THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT AND TO THE OBLIGATIONS WHICH GOI HAS FREELY ASSUMED. FURTHERMORE, SUCH ACTION WOULD BE TOTALLY AT VARIANCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S EXPRESSED VIEW (REF B AND PARA 5 OF REYKJAVIK 1156) THAT CORNER-STONE OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY IS US-ICELANDIC FRIENDSHIP AND THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE ANYTHING HAPPEN TO CHANGE OUR VERY FINE RELATIONSHIP.

4. DEPARTMENT FULLY CONCURS IN YOUR PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION (PARA 6, REF A). YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO USE WHICH-EVER ARGUMENTS (FROM REF A OR THIS MESSAGE) YOU BELIEVE WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN DISSUADING GOI FROM UTILIZING ARTICLE IV IN UNILATERAL MANNER IN LIEU OF NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE VII. KISSINGER

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